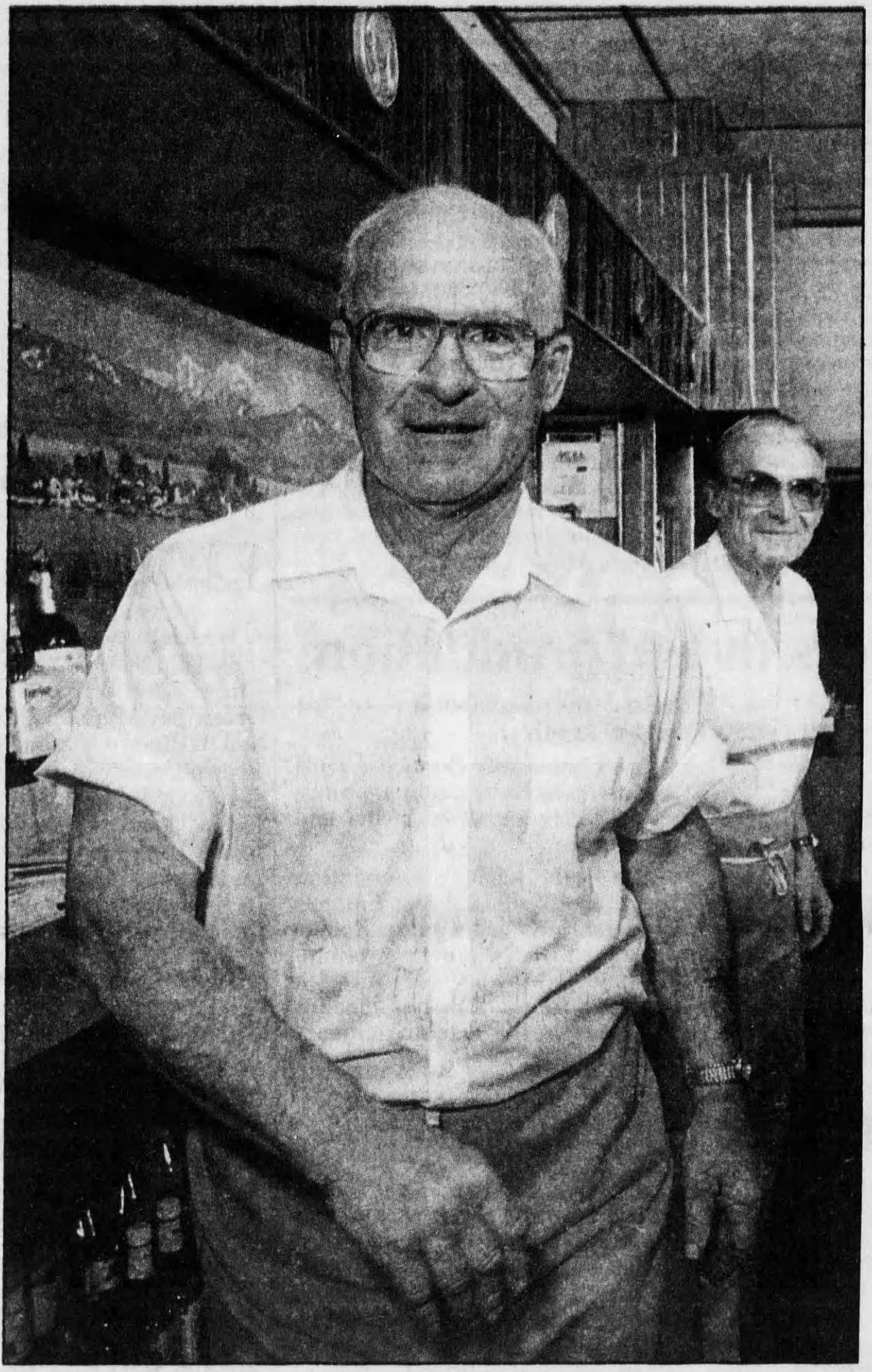
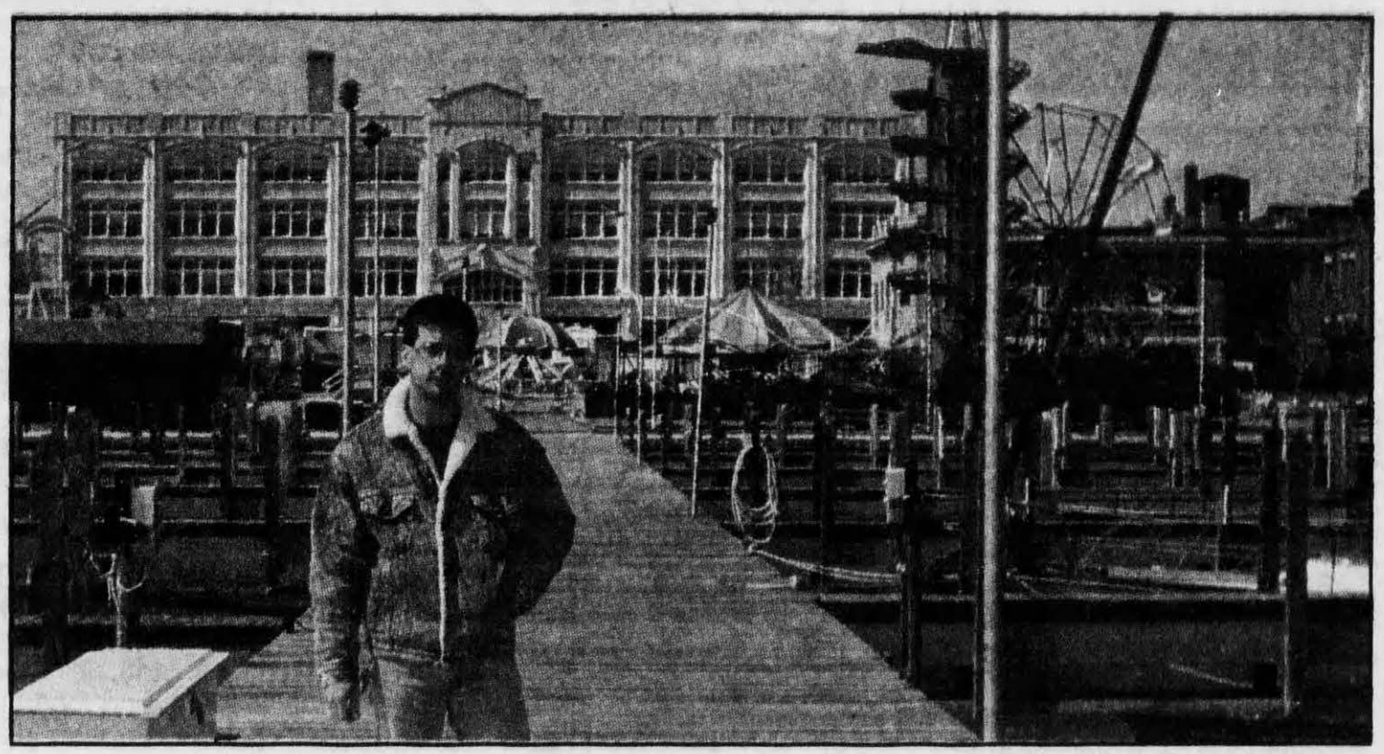


What'll you have: Howard Jozwiack and his brother Marshall tend bar at Jozwiack's Bar-B-Q & Pizza. The restaurant is famous for its Wabash, a burger with the works.



Dock of the bay: Brian Helfert of Menominee, a Menominee County Sheriff's Department employee, keeps an eye on the marina as the boating season draws near. Helfert is part of a group that oversees the city's scenic marina and park throughout the year.

Chopper makers: John Hansen, vice president of manufacturing, left, and Laurene De Witt Davidson, director of personnel, show off one of the products of Enstrom Helicopter Corp. at Twin County Airport, Menominee.

Menominee tranquil, but growing

By Lisa Sumter
Press-Gazette

MENOMINEE, Mich. — Bill Cavill points out over the sunlit waters of the bay as the definitive reason he stays here.

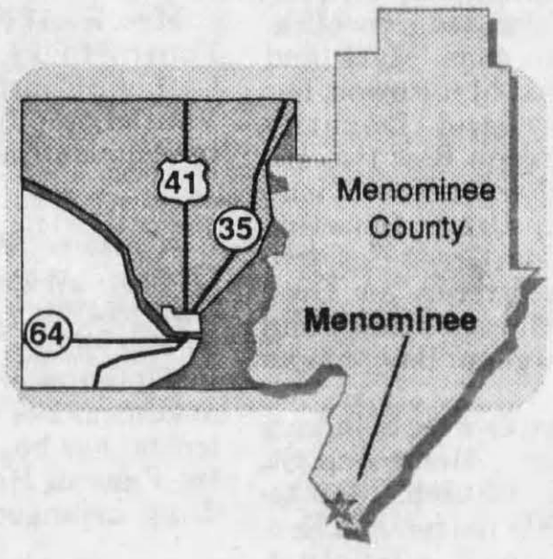
"That's it right there," he says from the roof of the Fish, Net and Twine building, where he is sales manager. "I've been on the water for 30 years now."

Standing on the waterfront of this Upper Peninsula border town, a visitor can look across Green Bay and see the shoreline of Door County. But Cavill and many other Menominee residents see more than that as they gaze out over the water and back through the streets of their city.

Beyond the natural aesthetics is the virtual resurgence of this city in recent years — revitalization of its downtown and accompanying business growth there. With a population of 10,094, residents say Menominee is developed enough to serve their needs, without the crime and other problems that plague larger cities.

Originally a logging area, Menominee is now an industrial manufacturing area. Menominee Paper Co. is the dominant industry and largest employer in the city. Menominee often is viewed as one big community with its sister city across the river, Marinette, Wis.

Driving over the bridge on U.S. Highway 41, Memominee looks like any other small city. Retail businesses, restaurants and car dealerships line the streets with clusters of neatly kept neighborhoods tucked behind. But the pizza places, the sub shops and the gas stations soon give way to the charismatic old buildings that help to give the city its individual character.



Imposing buildings like the Menominee County Courthouse, with its decorative tower, seem a fitting preview to the historic downtown.

A scenic area with old-fashioned street lights and awning-shaded windows, downtown was once a stagnant place with little direction, residents say.

Slowly, that is changing, Brian Helfert says. A sheriff's officer for Menominee County, Helfert is part of a citizens management group that runs the Great Lakes Memorial Marina and Park.

"A few years back, nothing much happened and you didn't really see too many businesses," Helfert says. "Then all of a sudden people started investing money and new businesses started opening up."

He hints that the revitalization effort by city fathers and other civic leaders received a mixed reception.

"Some people may want to see the town stay the way it was, but I think most people are glad to see it take off and start going somewhere."

The marina has had no lack of development either. During the summer the marina's 157 slips and moorings — 115 of them added since 1983 — are full. The area bustles with boaters, picnickers and others just taking advantage of warm weather.

"The outdoor recreation, the water activities, are almost limitless," Helfert says. He speculates that tourism will be Menominee's next big industry.

Away from the waterfront, on the fringes of Twin County Airport, attention turns from water to the air. Enstrom Helicopter Corp. is Michigan's only aircraft manufacturer. For almost 30 years, employees have taken up the meticulous business of designing and producing helicopters.

Laurene De Witt Davidson, personnel director, says each copter takes about 2,000 hours to complete. The 100 employees finish three to four machines each month, shipping them worldwide.

Civic pride, industry and development might form the backbone of Menominee, but one small bar and restaurant seems to capture the flavor of life here best.

Jozwiak's is an unofficial landmark in Menominee. As customers walk in, a sign on the wall proclaims, "Not quite 95 bil-

Please see **Menominee/B-2**

Press-Gazette photos by Joan Gutheridge

The Menominee file

- **Population:** 10,094
- **On the waterfront:** A former bus garage is now a registered historical landmark in Menominee. The 105-year-old building has operated as the Waterfront Restaurant for about three years. The spot that houses the restaurant's large front windows once held the overhead garage doors, Kristin Kramer, dining room and bar manager said. In the spot that is now the main dining room, buses used to drive in and up onto hydraulic lifts for repairs, she said.
- **Timeout for a Wabash**: A double beef patty with cheese, ketchup, mustard, pickles and onions, all on a hard roll. It may not sound all that unusual, but it is a favorite of all who try it, customers at Jozwiak's say. One woman even ordered a batch of the burgers for her son, who serves in the military in Alaska. Restaurant owners Harold and Marshall Jozwiak named the burger after a street near the business — or after a ferry boat that ran from Menominee to Frankfurt, Mich. Take your pick.

☐ Menominee

lion sold."

What is being sold is homemade pizza and the Wabash, a double cheeseburger with the works that is the trademark of this family business owned by brothers Howard and Marshall Jozwiak.

"We had the Wabash before MacDonalds had the Big Mac," Howard says with pride. The brothers are former Menominee High School football stars and remain avid sports enthusiasts.

Marshall is a Green Bay Packers fan, Harold backs the Detroit Lions.

Customers say Jozwiak's is neutral territory for fans when the Menominee Maroons battle the Marinette Marines in one of the country's oldest interstate football rivalries.

"After the game you'll find no animosity," Jim Gaugh says. "The team that loses always claims a moral victory."

A Menominee native, Gaugh displays an air of complete contentment with his community.

"It's an easy, mild way of life — real laid-back," he says with a smile. "It's really tranquil — if somebody stole a car it would be big news."

■ **Next Week:** Wabeno in Forest County